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Excise

Location, hours of sale, etc., of liquor shops.

*1416 Q.—Mr. C. Gopala Menon: Will the hon the Minister for Public Health be pleased to place on the table of the House the rules or instructions governing the location, hours of sale, etc., of liquor shops?

A.—The rules [a] are laid on the table.

Mr. C. Gopala Menon:—"May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government have received any complaint from the Temperance Society with regard to the working of these rules?"

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar:—"Complaint as regards what?"

Mr. C. Gopala Menon:—"Complaint with regard to the working of the rules."

The hon. the President:—"I am afraid the hon. Member has simply asked for the report being placed on the table of the House. He ought therefore only to frame questions on the report."

Removal of toddy and arrack shops from Cocanada municipal limits.

*1417 Q.—Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Municipal Council, Cocanada, passed a resolution No. 98, dated 26th May 1926, advocating the removal of all toddy and arrack shops from within the municipal jurisdiction and whether the same was communicated to Government;

(b) whether the same Council reiterated the resolution in the same terms in subsequent years; and

(c) what action the Government have taken to give effect to the said resolution?

A.—(a) No resolution bearing the date 26th May 1926 was communicated to the Government; but a resolution No. 98, dated 26th May 1924, on the subject was communicated to them by the Chairman, Municipal Council, Cocanada.

(b) A resolution dated 11th January 1929 on the subject has been received by the Government.

(c) No action has been taken on them.

Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu:—"May I know, with reference to (c), why the Government have not taken action in view of the fact that the Council has been invariably passing the resolution?"

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar:—"So far as the Government are aware, the Municipality passed one such resolution in 1924 and it is only in January 1929, they again passed a similar resolution. In the bigger municipalities there are excise licensing boards and in other places there are excise advisory committees who deal with this matter. When they recommend any action it is given effect to."

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 101-105 infra.

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Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—" So, unless resolutions of this kind are supported by the Excise Advisory and Licensing Boards the Government would not take any action ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" The Government will consider the advice of their officials and if they think it necessary they will issue orders in accordance therewith. But apart from that, the district committees can themselves take action."

Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—" May I know if these resolutions were considered at all by the Government ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Whenever such resolutions are received, they are considered."

Reduction in the excise revenues of the province.

*1418 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether he has recommended any reduction in the excise revenue of the province being budgeted for as a result of his prohibition policy ;

(b) if so, how much, and

(c) if not, why not ?

A.—(a) *to* (c) No. It is not possible to anticipate at present what the financial effect will be during 1929–30 of the scheme of propaganda work which is to be started.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know whether the fact that the Government do not anticipate any fall in the excise revenue is the reason why they have not budgeted for any reduction in excise revenue in the budget for the ensuing year ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" I am afraid that is not the reason."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Then, may I know what the reason is ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" The reason is that it is not possible to anticipate what the fall would be."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" In view of the fact that not even a pie is budgeted for as reduction in the excise revenue, may I know whether the Government anticipate any fall at all, as a result of their temperance propaganda ?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" The excise revenue may fall."

Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—" May I know whether they expect any effect from the propaganda carried on ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" They do."

Medical

Appointment of Indian I.M.S. officers to civil duty in Madras.

*1419 Q.—Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) how many Indian I.M.S. officers there are in civil employ in this Presidency ;